

## Message Text

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43/20

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/PAF: BELL

APPROVED BY: ARA/PAF: BBELL

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION THROUGHOUT TEXT)

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ROGERS' LATIN AMERICA TRIP

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY  
(MARCH 20) ON HIS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. THE TRANSCRIPT  
FOLLOWS:

MR. FUNSETH: GOOD MORNING. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE WITH US  
THIS MORNING MR. WILLIAM ROGERS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A VISIT  
TO LATIN AMERICA. HE HAS KINDLY AGREED TO COME AND ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS TRIP, AS WELL AS OTHER QUESTIONS  
ABOUT LATIN AMERICA. IT WILL BE ON THE RECORD.  
MR. ROGERS.

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MR. ROGERS: THANKS, BOB. I HAVE A SHORT PRELIMINARY

MATTER. I THINK MOST OF YOU HAVE THE STATEMENT THAT WE RELEASED TODAY WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW APPOINTMENTS IN ARA. BRIAN BELL WILL MAKE COPIES AVAILABLE TO YOU (SEE END TEL).

WE ARE ANNOUNCING TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE NEW DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, FOR ARA.

AMBASSADOR HEWSON E. RYAN, WHO WAS FORMERLY AMBASSADOR IN HONDURAS, AND HAS HAD A WIDE CAREER BOTH IN USIA AND THE DEPARTMENT. WILLIAM H. LUERS, WHO IS A CAREER FOREIGN

SERVICE OFFICER. AND IN THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY POSITION WITH PARTICULAR ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES, DR. ALBERT FISHLOW, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND WILL BE NEW TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

THESE THREE APPOINTMENTS OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF TOTAL CHANGE OF THE FRONT OFFICE IN ARA, WHICH STARTED WITH MY APPOINTMENT A FEW MONTHS AGO. SO ESSENTIALLY BEGINNING AROUND THE TURN OF THE MONTH, WE WILL HAVE A TOTALLY NEW TEAM IN THE ARA FRONT OFFICE.

I WANT TO SAY PERSONALLY, WHAT I AM SURE ALL OF YOU WOULD ECHO WHO HAVE KNOWN BILL BOWDLER AND HARRY SHLAUDEMAN, HOW MUCH WE ARE GOING TO MISS THEM. I THINK AT THE SAME TIME I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HOW GRATIFIED I AM THAT THESE THREE OUTSTANDING OFFICERS AND EXPERIENCED EXPERTS HAVE AGREED TO JOIN THE FRONT OFFICE OF ARA, BECAUSE I THINK THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE A QUITE EXTRAORDINARY TEAM AND ONE WHICH I WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS TO COME.

THE DETAILS, AS I SAY, WILL BE SET FORTH IN BRIAN'S STATEMENT, WHICH BRIAN BELL WILL GIVE YOU WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED HERE.;

AS I SAY, IT IS QUITE A FUNDAMENTAL AND TOTAL CHANGE.

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WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WAS THE TRIP. I WAS INSPIRED TO DO SO BY THE FACT THAT WE HAD IMMENSE COVERAGE IN LATIN AMERICA. THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE CLIPPINGS DOWN HERE I HAVE UNDER MY LEFT HAND. THE REST OF THEM ARE POUCHED AND COMING IN ON SLOW FREIGHT. THE COVERAGE WAS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY DOWN THERE. SO FAR AS I KNOW, HOWEVER, THE BEST WE COULD DO IN THE UNITED STATES WAS THIS SHORT SQUIB IN THE NEW YORK TIMES -- VERY

ENCOURAGING. IT IS A CONFIRMATION OF SCOTTY RESTON'S BASIC POINT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES BEING PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT LATIN AMERICA EXCEPT READ ABOUT IT.  
Q: AND WRITE ABOUT IT.

A: OR WRITE ABOUT IT. OR PRINT IT. ANYWAY, I THOUGHT PERHAPS, SINCE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE REASON FOR THIS SCANTY COVERAGE OF THE TRIP IN THE U.S. PRESS WAS BECAUSE WE WERE NOT MAKING ALL FACTS AVAILABLE TO YOU, AND IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY THAT ANYONE MIGHT SAY THAT IT WAS AS A RESULT OF THE LACK OF A FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, I WOULD

MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE TO YOU HERE TODAY.  
LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE TRIP. IT WAS, AS YOU KNOW, A FAIRLY HECTIC ONE.

WE ARRIVED MONDAY MORNING IN BUENOS AIRES. I WAS THERE MONDAY. WE WENT OVER TO MONTEVIDEO, WHERE I MET THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF URUGUAY, MONDAY NIGHT. THEN BACK TO BUENOS AIRES, WHERE I MET PRESIDENT PERON, TUESDAY MORNING. AND THEN OVER TO SANTIAGO, WHERE I MET CARVAJAL, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND PRESIDENT PINOCHET. I WENT UP TO LIMA, WHERE I SAW MORALES BERMUDEZ, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER. FROM THERE I WENT TO BRAZIL, WHERE WE HAD AN EXTRAORDINARILY FULL SERIES OF SESSIONS WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MARIO HENRIQUE SIMONSEN, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, OF COURSE, AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON HIS STAFF. THEN UP TO CARACAS, WHERE I MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THEN WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AND FINALLY A FASCINATING AND VERY USEFUL MEETING ALONE WITH THE TWO PRESIDENTS.  
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DENTS -- PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA, AND AT THE SAME TIME PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA, WHO WAS AT THAT MOMENT CIRCUMSTANTIALLY THE GUEST OF PRESIDENT PEREZ IN VENEZUELA. I THEN WENT OVER TO COLOMBIA, JUST ABOUT OUT OF GAS AT THAT POINT, AND HAD A SUNDAY NIGHT SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO IN COLOMBIA BEFORE COMING BACK HERE MONDAY MORNING.

THE PRESS COVERAGE WAS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY, DURING THIS WHOLE TRIP, AS I SAID. THERE WAS AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF INTEREST IN MY VISIT AND THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE WERE HAVING AT THE TIME.

OBVIOUSLY PART OF THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THE TRIP WAS BILLED AS, AND INDEED WAS, A KIND OF FORERUNNER

FOR THE SECRETARY'S OWN VISIT DOWN THERE. BUT BEYOND THAT, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT JUST THE FACT THAT I WAS THERE WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT INTEREST IN BOTH THE PUBLIC PRESS AND OFFICIALLY. AND I THOUGHT THAT A MATTER OF SOME GRATIFICATION. BECAUSE, AS YOU ALL WELL KNOW, ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF OUR POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA IS TO AVOID THE SENSATION THAT WE ARE IGNORING THEM. AND I THINK THE FACT THAT I WAS THERE WAS SOME SMALL DEMONSTRATION THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE.

I TALKED ABOUT A NUMBER OF THINGS. FIRST AND FOREMOST, OF COURSE, THE TRADE BILL, WHICH IS INDEED A DOMINANT PRE-OCCUPATION THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE, MORE SO IN SOME

COUNTRIES THAN IN OTHERS. AND, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THE TRADE BILL THAT BOTHER SOME COUNTRIES BUT DON'T BOTHER OTHERS. I CAN GO INTO ELABORATE DETAIL ABOUT THAT, BUT I'M AFRAID TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN TECHNICALITIES. BUT ESSENTIALLY, TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT, THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ASPECT OF THE TRADE BILL OBVIOUSLY IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLY MORE INTEREST IN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL THAN IT IS IN SOME OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH FOCUS, ON THE OTHER HAND, PARTICULARLY ON THE OPEC EXCLUSION AND SOME OF THE OTHER PROVISIONS FOR INELIGIBILITY IN THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES IN TITLE V. AND BASICALLY MY LINE WAS -- THE CENTRAL THREAD UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE CONVERSATION WAS SOMETHING WITH WHICH YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR -- AND THAT IS TO SAY OUR BASIC EFFORT TO EXPLAIN THAT THE TRADE BILL, IN OUR VIEW, IS AN IMPORTANT, POSITIVE STEP, AND THAT ON BALANCE IT WILL TURN OUT TO BE SO, AND A STEP OF GREAT INTEREST AND ADVANTAGE TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF LATIN AMERICA.

I SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME ON THIS AND ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF IT WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT I TALKED WITH.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE DISCUSSED AT ELABORATE LENGTH A VARIETY OF ASPECTS OF THE FORTHCOMING OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, OBVIOUSLY, AND THE REFORM OF THE RIO TREATY, AND SO FORTH.

WE DISCUSSED IN SEVERAL OF THE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES, THE MOVEMENT WITH RESPECT TO ARMS LIMITATION. AS YOU KNOW, THIS HAS BEEN A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WITH ME AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT EVER SINCE THE AYACUCHO DECLARATION IN DECEMBER. AND I HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE BIDDING ON THIS QUESTION WITH A

NUMBER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

BEYOND THAT, WE DID DISCUSS THE SECRETARY'S TRIP. AND THE BASIC POINT THAT I MADE THERE, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, WAS THAT WE COULD NOT YET BE DEFINITE AND FIRM ABOUT THAT TRIP BECAUSE -- OR AT LEAST UNTIL HE HAS RUN OUT THE STRING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AS YOU KNOW, EVERYTHING IS OPEN-ENDED FOR THE MOMENT UNTIL THE FINAL DATE OF HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES CAN BE SETTLED. AND IT ISN'T, I TAKE IT, POSSIBLE TO DO THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME. SO VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING HAS TO BE BE CONTINGENT ON THAT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY, IF MY EXPERIENCE IS ANY FAIR INDICATION, HE WILL BE WARMLY RECEIVED THERE, AND I THINK THE TRIP FINALLY, AS WAS THE

CASE WITH MY TRIP, WILL BE EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF IMPROVING THE CLIMATE OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS.

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WELL, LET ME STOP TALKING AND OPEN MYSELF UP TO QUESTIONS.

BUT THIS BASICALLY IS THE OUTLINE OF WHAT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.

Q: MR. ROGERS, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT YOU THINK THE LATIN AMERICANS FELT IN PAYING SUCH GREAT ATTENTION TO YOUR VISIT. WHAT WAS THE UNDERLYING THEME OF THEIR INTEREST? WAS IT THE TRADE BILL OR WAS IT JUST THE UNITED STATES DEMONSTRATING SOME INTEREST IN THEM?

A: I THINK OVERALL, DAVID, IT WAS REALLY THE LATTER, ALTHOUGH I MUST SAY THE TRADE BILL PROBABLY TOOK UP FORTY OR FIFTY PERCENT OF OUR TIME. THE FEELING THAT I HAD WAS PUBLICLY ONE OF GREAT CORDIALITY; PRIVATELY, VERY CORDIAL BUT VERY FRANK DISCUSSIONS. AND I REALLY MEAN THAT -- NOT JUST IN THE CONVENTIONAL DIPLOMATIC WAY. EVERYBODY ACROSS THE BOARD WAS PLENTY READY TO TALK BLUNTLY ABOUT THE TRADE BILL.

BUT I THINK THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO DO THAT IN PART BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT THIS WAS AGAIN A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR SINCERE INTEREST IN THE HEMISPHERE.

SO THAT I THINK OVERALL, ON NET, THE ONE THING I BROUGHT AWAY FROM THE TRIP WAS THAT WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO ON THE TRADE BILL. BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT TRIPS LIKE THIS CAN SERVE A VERY HELPFUL AND VALUABLE PURPOSE IN THE PRESENT STATE OF, OR MOOD, IF YOU WILL, OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS.

IS THIS REAPONSIVE TO YOUR QUESTION?

Q: WELL, JUST TO FOLLOW IT UP A LITTLE BIT. YOU WERE DOWN THERE, I THINK, AT QUITO.

A: RIGHT.

Q: AND YOU WERE DOWN AT AYACUCHO -- AT MULITLATERAL SCENES. IS THIS ATTENTION THAT WAS PAID ON THIS TRIP MORE THAN IN THOSE PREVIOUS CONTEXTS?

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A: THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. LET ME TRY FOR AN ANSWER AND SEE IF THIS IS RESPONSIVE.

YES, IN BOTH QUITO AND AYACUCHO, THE UNITED STATES WAS ONE OF MANY. AND CONSEQUENTLY, SINCE WE WERE NOT ASSERTIVE AT

QUITO, BECAUSE WE HAD THE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY, AND AYACUCHO, BECAUSE WE WERE ESSENTIALLY JUST OBSERVERS AND NOT ONE OF THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES, WE ESSENTIALLY AVOIDED OR SUPPRESSED, IF YOU WILL, STANDING IN THE LIMELIGHT.

IN THIS CASE, DURING MY TRIP, AND I ASSUME THIS WILL THEN BE THE SAME ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, THOSE ARE STRICTLY BILATERAL. I MEAN IT IS ARGENTINA HOSTING ROGERS OR KISSINGER. IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, OBVIOUSLY THE U.S. IS RIGHT OUT IN FRONT. AND I THINK THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE TRIP AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

THIS WAS THE FIRST ESSENTIAL -- WELL, FOR ME, THE FIRST TIME I HAD BEEN THERE IN ANY SERIOUS WAY BILATERALLY IN SOUTH AMERICA SINCE I TOOK OFFICE.

Q: MR. ROGERS, IN YOUR PREVIOUS BRIEFING YOU MENTIONED A POSSIBLE STRATEGY FOR LIFTING THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA THROUGH THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION, AND THEN THROUGH THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS MEETING. CAN YOU SAY IF YOU DISCUSSED THIS OR WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONSENSUS IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE YOU VISITED THAT THIS MIGHT BE A PROPER THING TO DO?

A: YES, WE DID DISCUSS THAT. BUT I THINK THE ANSWER IS, WITH RESPECT TO A CONSENSUS, THAT I COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THERE WAS OR WAS NOT. I THINK THE POINT ESSENTIALLY IS THAT I DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THERE, OR IN FACT TO EXPLORE PRECISELY THE POSITIONS OF ALL THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES. I THINK WE ARE A

COUPLE OF MONTHS AWAY FROM THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING AND BASICALLY THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IN OUR PERCEPTION IS THE TIME WHEN I THINK WE WILL BE A LOT CLOSER TO RESOLUTION ON THIS MATTER.

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AS YOU KNOW, HE SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT HE, SECRETARY KISSINGER, WILL BE DOING THE ESSENTIAL CONSULTING WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES DURING HIS TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA, AND I THINK THAT IS THE TIME WHEN WE WILL SEE WHATEVER KIND OF CONSENSUS THERE IS ACTUALLY TO EMERGE.

MY DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE A NUMBER, WERE ESSENTIALLY PRELIMINARY.

Q: MR. ROGERS, WHEN YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT CHANGES IN U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CUBA IN EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES, APPROXIMATELY WHAT WORDS DID YOU RESPOND IN?

A: I CAN TELL YOU PRECISELY WHAT WORDS I RESPONDED IN. THESE WERE VIRTUALLY PRECISELY THE WORDS THE SECRETARY USED IN HIS HOUSTON SPEECH.

Q: YES. BUT IN THE HOUSTON SPEECH HE SAID THERE CAN BE NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE UNLESS -- TA-DA, TA-DA, TA-DA -- WHICH, YOU KNOW, YOU COULD INTERPRET THE OTHER WAY, TOO.

A: I AM NOT FOLLOWING YOU, DAVID.

Q: WELL, HE SAID THERE CAN BE NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE UNTIL, UNLESS --

A: "...UNLESS CUBA DEMONSTRATES A READINESS TO ASSUME THE MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATION AND REGARD UPON WHICH A NEW RELATIONSHIP MUST BE FOUNDED."

Q: YOU COULD INTERPRET THAT IN A NEGATIVE SENSE, TOO. THAT IS, AS INDICATING THAT THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE A CHANGE.

A: WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT THERE OBVIOUSLY ARE THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP REALLY IS A SECOND QUESTION, THE FIRST QUESTION BEING THE OAS SANCTIONS WHICH ARE STILL IN EFFECT. NOW, WHAT HE SAID YOU CAN INTERPRET BOTH IN A POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SENSE, AND IT IS THE SAME THING BOTH WAYS. OUR POLICY AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS CUBA IS GOING TO DEPEND ON ESSENTIA-  
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LLY CUBA'S FOREIGN POLICY, AS HE POINTED OUT IN HIS SPEECH. THERE IS NOTHING, IT SEEMS TO ME, BY WAY OF A SHADE OF DIFFERENCE , WHETHER YOU STATE IT EITHER NEGATIVELY OR POSITIVELY.

Q: ARE THE COUNTRIES YOU VISITED THE SAME ONES THAT THE SECRETARY WILL VISIT, NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER; AND (B), ARE THEY PREPARED TO RECEIVE HIM WHENEVER HE IS FREE TO COME, GIVEN HIS COMMITMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST RIGHT NOW?

A: I THINK, JERRY, HE WILL VISIT THE COUNTRIES THAT I VISITED, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM. YES, THEY ARE ALL PREPARED TO ACCEPT HIS VISIT. MY FEELING IN TERMS OF THE ATTITUDE AND MOOD WAS THEY ARE ALL VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE HIM COME, AND I THINK THE PUBLIC RECEPTION WILL BE EXTREMELY CORDIAL.

Q: I MEANT IN TERMS OF THE FACT THAT YOU CANNOT PINPOINT THE DATES YET, BECAUSE NOBODY KNOWS WHEN HE IS GOING TO GET BACK HERE FROM PALESTINE.

A: WELL, WE HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY. BUT THE POINT IS, AS HE SAID -- IS TO DO THIS BEFORE THE OAS ASSEMBLY MEETING. AND I THINK BASICALLY, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE MIDDLE PART OF APRIL, HOPEFULLY IT IS GOING TO ZERO THROUGH THAT WINDOW DURING THE MIDDLE PART OF APRIL. NOW, I THINK THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THERE IS FLEXIBILITY, BOTH IN TERMS OF KISSINGER'S SCHEDULE AND IN TERMS OF THE WILLINGNESS OF THE COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE HIM.

Q: AND THE LAST PART IS DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY SECURITY PROBLEM FOR HIM WHEN HE GOES THERE?

A: OH, LISTEN, THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES CANNOT TRAVEL WITHOUT SECURITY PROBLEMS, AND MASSIVE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. I THINK THAT IS TRUE EVERY PLACE HE GOES.

Q: MR. ROGERS, DID ANYBODY BRING UP THE ISSUE OF  
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PANAMA THAT WAS ON THE ORIGINAL AGENDA PRESENTED BY THE LATINS? THAT IS ONE QUESTION. DID YOU FEEL ANY PRESSURE ON THIS ISSUE? SECONDLY, DO YOU FEEL CONFIDENT THAT A



REASONABLE TREATY CAN BE GOTTEN THROUGH THE SENATE? HOW  
DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ISSUE IN GENERAL?

A: YES, THE ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS IS YES. PANAMA WAS  
DISCUSSED. I THINK ESSENTIALLY IT WAS DISCUSSED IN THIS  
SENSE. I AM KIND OF SUMMARIZING A LOT OF CONVERSATIONS.

PANAMA IS OBVIOUSLY A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, NOT  
JUST TO PANAMA, BUT TO THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF LATIN  
AMERICA. WE HAVE MONITORED AND NOTED THE NEGOTIATIONS  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA, AND WE ARE ESSEN-  
Tially GRATIFIED FROM THE EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE LARGELY  
FROM PANAMA AUTHORITIES THAT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE  
MOVING FORWARD IN GOOD FAITH. THEY COMMEND THE UNITED  
STATES FOR CONDUCTING THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH.  
AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT THERE IS INDICATION, PARTICULARLY  
FROM PANAMA, THAT THE HOPED-FOR PACKAGE CAN BE ANNOUNCED  
DURING THE COURSE OF 1975. WE WANT TO REMIND YOU,  
HOWEVER, -- AND THIS WAS SAID MORE TACTFULLY THAN I CAN  
SAY IT -- THAT IF THE EFFORTS FAIL, THIS WILL BE WIDELY  
REGARDED IN LATIN AMERICA AS A MOST REGRETABLE STEP  
BACKWARDS IN TERMS OF GENERAL U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELA -  
TIONS.

NOW, IN TERMS OF THE SECOND QUESTION, ABOUT MY FEELING  
ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE TREATY EFFORT, AS I SAID,

THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS YES, I AM CONFIDENT THAT  
WE WILL GENERATE A TREATY PACKAGE WHICH WILL COMMEND  
ITSELF AS FAIR AND AS PROTECTIVE OF THE INTERESTS OF BOTH  
PARTIES TO MEN OF GOOD WILL IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLEX, BUT THEY ARE GOING FORWARD  
REALLY WITH AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF GOOD WILL. AND I SAY  
THAT NOT JUST FOR OUR PURPOSES, BECAUSE I HAVE DONE A  
LOT OF NEGOTIATING IN MY LIFE, LARGELY AS A PRIVATE  
PRACTITIONER, AND I KNOW HOW STICKY THINGS LIKE THIS CAN  
GET.

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THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE, I THINK, MAKING REALLY EXTRAOR-  
DINARY PROGRESS, AND THEY HAVE BEEN DEVOID OF THE KIND  
OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND ILL WILL THAT SO OFTEN CAN CROP  
UP.

THIS IS PART OF THE REASON WHY I AM CONFIDENT WE ARE  
GOING TO GENERATE A TREATY PACKAGE WHICH WILL COMMEND  
ITSELF. AND I AM NOT UNAWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN  
THE SENATE. IT IS GOING TO BE A VERY HARD, CHALLENGING

EFFORT IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE TREATY THAT WILL BE PRESENTED. IT WOULD BE IDLE TO DENY THAT. BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS TREATY PACKAGE WILL COMMEND ITSELF, NOT JUST TO MEN OF GOOD WILL GENERALLY, BUT TO THE SENATE.

Q: ONE MORE POINT ON THAT, IF I MAY, BILL. A FOOTNOTE TO THIS. DID THE COLOMBIANS BRING THIS UP? THEY, I UNDERSTAND, HAVE A SPECIAL CONSIDERATION -- PART OF THE ORIGINAL TREATY. DID THEY BRING UP ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS?

A: YES, WE DID TOUCH ON THE COLOMBIAN INTEREST IN THE MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I THINK, AS YOU KNOW, THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING DIRECTLY WITH THE PANAMANIAN, AND IN FACT THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF COLOMBIA WILL BE IN PANAMA THIS COMING WEEKEND, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER PRESIDENTS OF THE AREA. AND BASICALLY I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN TERMS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES -- ; THE UNITED STATES, PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA -- IN TERMS OF THE COLOMBIAN DIMENSION OF THE PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS.

Q: MR. ROGERS, WE HEAR A LOT NOW IN WASHINGTON ABOUT THE SO-CALLED LACK OF CONFIDENCE NOW GROWING IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN VIETNAM OR OTHER PLACES, THE DOMINO THEORY. HAVE YOU FELT ANY OF THIS DURING YOUR TALKS WITH YOUR LATIN AMERICAN PARTNERS?

A: NO. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THERE WAS SOLID BUT NOT WILD INTEREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT VERY, VERY LITTLE IF ANY THAT I CAN RECALL OFFHAND OF ANY DISCUSSION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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VIETNAM ISSUE, CERTAINLY NOT IN THE KINDS OF TERMS THAT ARE AGGRAVATING OUR PUBLIC LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE VIETNAM QUESTION AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Q: I REALIZE YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THE CUBA ISSUE TO DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT. BUT SURELY YOU MUST HAVE COME BACK WITH SOME IMPRESSIONS OF HOW THINGS ARE SEEN THERE.

Q: I WONDER IF YOU COULD JUST SHARE SOME GENERAL THOUGHTS OF THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UPCOMING OAS SESSION.

A: I WILL GIVE YOU ONE GENERAL IMPRESSION. IT WAS VERY INTERESTING. YOU KNOW, IT IS AN AMAZING THING ABOUT THE PRESS IN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA. THAT IS TO SAY, THIS GROUP HERE. WE COUNTED THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT CUBA DURING MY LAST APPEARANCE IN THIS FRIENDLY ENCLAVE, AND I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE PRECISE COUNT,

BUT IT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY ABOUT CUBA. NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. NOW, I COMMEND YOU -- THE CUBAN ISSUE IS IMPORTANT -- I SUPPOSE. BUT YOU KNOW, IN LATIN AMERICA THE INTEREST IS EVER SO MUCH LESS. NOW, THAT MAY BE BECAUSE THE TRADE ACT HAS DRIVEN CUBA TO THE SECOND OR THIRD PAGE IN THE NEWSPAPER. BUT ONE IMPRESSION THAT I WILL GIVE YOU IS THAT THE FIXATION ON THE CUBAN ISSUE AMONGST AT LEAST SOME QUARTERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESS IN THE UNITED STATES IS NOT SHARED, OR AT LEAST MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT IT WAS NOT SHARED, BY THE PRESS THAT I MET WITH IN LATIN AMERICA. AND I MET WITH A LOT OF PRESS IN LATIN AMERICA. IN FACT, I HAD A PRESS CONFERENCE EVERY DAY. I REALLY OUGHT TO TELL YOU THAT, ALSO, AS FAR AS THE PRESS IS CONCERNED, THERE WAS HARDLY ANY SOUR NOTE, EXCEPT ONE. NOW, I DON'T WANT YOU TO ATTACH ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT THAT THIS APPEARED IN SANTIAGO -- BUT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN READ SPANISH -- (LAUGHTER) I AM GOING TO FRAME THAT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS SAYS? IT SAYS THEY GOT A BAND OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. AND HERE AM I WITH DAVE POPPER AND BOB BENTLEY.

Q: THERE WAS IN FACT A MEETING IN QUITO JUST ABOUT THIS ISSUE A FEW MONTHS AGO. I GUESS THERE MUST BE SOME INTEREST DOWN THERE.  
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A: YES, WELL, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THERE, TOO, THAT THE INTEREST IN CUBA VARIES WIDELY. AND IT REALLY IS, I THINK, IN MOST COUNTRIES, AN ISSUE WHICH IS NOT THAT

AGGRAVATING. I AM NOT TRYING TO UNDERSSELL IT. DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND ME. BUT I THINK YOU WANTED A PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF HOW TERRIBLY CONSEQUENTIAL THIS WAS.

Q: MR. ROGERS, YOU GAVE A VERY DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE METHOD THAT WOULD BE USED FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE EMBARGO. DID YOU GET ANY REACTION ON THIS SPECIFIC METHOD DOWN THERE?

A: WELL, SOME OF THE COUNTRIES THAT I VISITED HAVE BEEN THE COUNTRIES ESSENTIALLY THAT INITIATED THE IDEA. SO THAT OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF IT. THAT IS A TWO-STEP FORMULA THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ESSENTIALLY. OTHER COUNTRIES, I SUPPOSE, WOULD -- WELL, I DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THE COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE INITIATORS WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL. SO I REALLY CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY NOTION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF THAT FORMULA.

Q

Q: MR. ROGERS, IN VIEW OF THE BACKGROUND ON THE TRADE LAW, WHAT KIND OF REACTION DID YOU GET WHEN YOU OUTLINED THE U.S. POLICY?

A: I THINK IN A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT WAS A HELPFUL PIECE OF INFORMATION. LET ME SEE IF I CAN EXPLAIN THAT. THE TRADE BILL IS A VERY COMPLICATED PIECE OF LEGISLATION, AS I AM SURE YOU ALL KNOW TOO WELL. AND NEITHER IN LATIN AMERICA NOR IN THE UNITED STATES IS IT WIDELY UNDERSTOOD IN ALL ITS COMPLEXITY AND DETAIL.

NOW, I THINK, THEREFORE, THAT I WAS ABLE TO BRING INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRADE LAW, BOTH IN TERMS OF HOW WE ARE GOING TO INTERPRET IT, IN TERMS OF HOW IT WILL WORK, IN TERMS OF WHAT OTHER COMMODITY GROUPINGS IT MAY BE DIRECTED AGAINST WITH RESPECT TO TITLE V, A NUMBER OF OTHER TECHNICAL ISSUES AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE TRADE LAW,  
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WHICH I THINK WERE NEW CONSIDERATIONS IN MANY QUARTERS IN LATIN AMERICA. AND THE REACTION I GOT IN ANY NUMBER OF PLACES WAS "THIS IS VERY INTERESTING. WE ARE VERY GLAD ABOUT THAT." AND THEN THEY WOULD ASK ME A QUESTION OR TO WHICH I WAS ABLE TO ANSWER. AND I THINK IT HAS CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRADE LAW IN LATIN AMERICA. IT INTRODUCED SOME COMPLEXITIES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN A PART OF THE CONSIDERATION.

Q: BEFORE YOUR VISIT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES HAD ALREADY BEEN EXPRESSED IN MANY DETAILS DURING THE MEETINGS HERE AT THE OAS. DID ANYTHING NEW COME OUT OF YOUR MEETINGS?

A: YES. I THINK -- WELL, NOT OUT OF THE MEETING PERHAPS SO MUCH AS SOMETHING THAT I WAS ABLE -- THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WERE ABLE TO SAY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO A SOLUTION OF THE OPEC PROVISION, WHICH OF COURSE IS THE INITIAL AGGRAVATION AS FAR AS THE TRADE LAW IS CONCERNED. AND I WAS ABLE TO SAY THAT WE HAD EVERY EXPECTATION THAT A SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM WOULD BE IN HAND PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PREFERENCES -- THIS WAS REGARDED AS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE OPEC PROVISION AND THE OTHER INELIBILITY PROVISIONS UNDER THE PREFERENCE SECTION.

Q: YOU MEAN A FAVORABLE --

A: VERY FAVORABLE REACTION, YES.

Q: WHAT YOU SAID IS THAT A FAVORABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF EXCLUSION WOULD BE IN HAND BEFORE THE DATE OF --

A: THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE PREFERENCES -- RIGHT. YOU FOLLOW ME? SO THAT THE COUNTRIES --

Q: ON WHAT DO YOU BASE THAT?

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A: OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS. AND IN ADDITION TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO SAY QUITE CLEARLY, I THINK, SOMETHING THAT WE HAD NOT ACUTALLY DEFINED AT THE TIME OF THE DEBATE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THAT WAS THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME -- YOU RECALL THERE ARE OTHER PROVISIONS FOR POSSIBLE INELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS OR MEMBERS OF PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS. AND I WAS ABLE TO SAY THAT OTHER THAN THE OPEC PROVISION, THERE WAS NO OTHER PRODUCER ASSOCIATION AT THE PRESENT TIME THAT THE INELIGIBILITY PROVISION READ AGAINST.

AM I USING TOO LEGALISTIC A WAY TO EXPRESS THE POINT? IT IS A VERY SIMPLE POINT. THERE IS NO OTHER PRODUCER ASSOCIATION THAT IS GOING TO BE EXCLUDED UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES FROM THE GSP PROVISION. AND THE THIRD

THING THAT I EMPHASIZED, STILL WITH RESPECT TO GSP, IS THAT THAT PROVISION WAS NOT A THREAT AGAINST EACH AND EVERY PRODUCER ASSOCIATION THAT GOT TOGETHER; THAT THE PROVISION WAS VERY EXPLICIT AND VERY CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO APPLY ONLY TO SUCH PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS AS (A) RELATED TO VITAL COMMODITIES; (B) WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF RAISING PRICES; AND (C) WHOSE PRICE INCREASES HAD A DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

Q: WHAT DO YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS TELL YOU ABOUT HOW THE ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO OVERCOME THE 37 SENATORS WHO HAVE SIGNED THEIR NAMES AS OBJECTING TO ANY CONCESSIONS TO PANAMA, AND THE 111, OR WHATEVER IT WAS, IN THE HOUSE?

A: I THINK TWO THINGS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF YOU READ THE RESOLUTION CAREFULLY, THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION, AS ALL PIECES OF LAW OR QUASI-LAW SHOULD BE READ, YOU WILL SEE THAT IT SAYS -- I WILL OVERSIMPLIFY IT -- TWO THINGS. ONE, THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WHICH PREJUDICES THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY. AND TWO, THIS IS A KIND OF A SUMMARY OF THE SECOND AND THIRD PARAGRAPHS -- THAT THE SIGNATORIES

ARE OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGES UNLESS THOSE CHANGES ARE IMPLEMENTED IN THE WAY REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES.

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NOW, IN THAT SENSE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY THE SPIRIT AND THE MOOD AND THE INTENT OF THE DRAFTSMEN AND OF SOME OF THE SIGNATORIES IS NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER, AS THE LANGUAGE IS EXPRESSLY QUALIFIED, WE ARE GOING TO SAY, "LOOK, (A) WHAT WE ARE DOING DOES NOT SEEL OUT THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND (B) WE ARE GOING TO IMPLEMENT THOSE CHANGES IN THE FORM AND MANNER REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES."

SO WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THERE IS NOT SUCH A CONFLICT, SUCH A HEAD-TO-HEAD CONFRONTATION, BETWEEN THOSE SIGNATORIES, AND WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY ABOUT THAT TREATY AS MIGHT APPEAR AT FIRST BLUSH.

THE SECOND POINT IS I HAVE NO DOUBT, AS, IF YOU RECALL, SENATOR BAKER SAID TO ME, WHEN I TESTIFIED BEFORE THE MCGEE COMMITTEE ABOUT THE RESOLUTION -- YOU WILL RECALL THE POSITION I TOOK WAS, "PLEASE, SEANTOR, I URGE THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES NOT TO COMMIT ITSELF UNTIL AFTER IT HEARS THE OTHER SIDE." AND PERCY SAID, ON THE RECORD, "MR. ROGERS, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND RESOLUTIONS LIKE THIS. IT IS VERY EASY FOR SENATORS TO GET OTHER PEOPLE TO SIGN ON AS CO-SPONSORS ON RESOLUTIONS LIKE THIS EARLY IN THE SESSION."

NOW, I THINK, THIRDLY, THAT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BE PRESENTING WHEN WE HAVE THE PACKAGE IS A REAL PACKAGE, WHICH WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO UP, I THINK, AND THEN SIT DOWN WITH THE SENATORS, EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, AND SAY, "LOOK, THIS IS WHY IT

MAKES SENSE, THIS IS WHY IT IS IN THE INTERESTS, BOTH OF PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES TO DO IT. AND WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO POINT TO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS, SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDINGS, THAT WILL DO THAT. AND I THINK WHEN ALL THE SENATORS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO SIGNED THAT RESOLUTION, HAVE A CHANCE TO LOOK AT WHAT ACTUALLY IS GOING TO BE PRESENTED AND PROPOSED, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE A VERY MUCH MORE RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT.

Q: WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS WENT TO LATIN AMERICA

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TWO YEARS AGO, IT WAS APPARENTLY DEEMED IMPORTANT TO STOP IN CENTRAL AMERICA ON THE WAY DOWN AND THE CARIBBEAN AS A SYMBOLIC REST STOP ON THE WAY BACK. NOW, YOUR ITINERARY DOESN'T INDICATE THAT. WHY NOT?

A: WELL, FOR NO VERY PROFOUND REASON. OBVIOUSLY, YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY'S TIME IS LIMITED. BUT HE WANTS TO GO TO SOUTH AMERICA. I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT MOST COUNTRIES THAT HE WILL BE VISITING HE HAS KNOWN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND THEY HAVE INVITED HIM FOR SOME TIME TO COME. THEY HAVE INVITED HIM A LONG TIME AGO TO COME THERE, AND HE FEELS KIND OF A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO GO.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AS YOU KNOW, I PERSONALLY HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN CENTRAL AMERICA. I STOPPED OFF ON MY LAST TRIP TO PANAMA AND SAW PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO IN COSTA RICA. AND WE SHOULD NOT FORGET CENTRAL AMERICA. IT IS PART OF MY PLAN AND HOPE AND EFFORT TO GET SOMEBODY FROM THIS ADMINISTRATION OF CONSEQUENCE TO VISIT CENTRAL AMERICA AS WELL.

NOW, I DON'T O IT WILL BE PART OF THIS TRIP. BUT THAT SHOULD NOT BE READ AS OUR IGNORING CENTRAL AMERICA.

Q: I GATHER YOU HAVE SOME PRIVATE VIEWS ON MR. KISSINGERS SPEECH IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES THAT YOU VISITED. WERE THERE ANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THE SPEECH? HOW WAS IT REGARDED?

A. I THINK EVERYBODY TOOK IT VERY SERIOUSLY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE. I MEAN THAT IN THE SENSE THAT IT WAS GENERALLY REGARDED AS OBVIOUSLY A SPEECH THAT HAD NOT BEEN KNOCKED OFF IN TWO HOURS OF DRAFTING; THAT IT WAS A SPEECH THAT REFLECTED A CAREFUL AND CONSIDERED STATEMENT OF HIS VIEW AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, AS FAR AS LATIN AMERICA IS CONCERNED. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS REGARDED AS A REAL CONTRIBUTION, NOT JUST RHETORIC.

SECOND, IT WAS ALSO REGARDED AS AN EXTRAORDINARILY WIDE-RANGING SPEECH. THAT IS TO SAY THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO

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SAY ON A WIDE NUMBER OF ISSUES. IT WAS NOT A ONE- OR TWO-ISSUE SPEECH, AS SO MANY OF THEM ARE.

NOW, THIRDLY, I THINK THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY SOME PEOPLE WHO TOOK THE CONFRONTATION PART AS A GOOD THING, AS A CLEAR-

ING OF THE AIR. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE SOME , I THINK, IN THE PRESS, AT LEAST IN MY EXPERIENCE -- NONE OF THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES SAID THIS VERY STRONGLY, BUT SOME OF THE PRESS PEOPLE SEEMED TO EXHIBIT A SENSITIVITY TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE UNDESIRABILITY OF CONFRONTATION.

SO I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE REACTION TO THE SPEECH WAS BASICALLY POSITIVE AND HOPEFUL (A) BECAUSE IT REFLECTED A SINCERE INTEREST BY THE SECRETARY IN LATIN AMERICA, AND (B) BECAUSE IT WAS QUITE FORTHCOMING ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO LATIN AMERICA.

THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE, A FEW PEOPLE, IN MY JUDGMENT, IF I READ THE PRESS CORRECTLY, AND THEY ARE PRETTY TOUGH DOWN THERE SO I THINK IT IS A FAIR READING, AS I SAY, WHO WERE SENSITIVE TO THE FRANK DISCUSSION ABOUT CONFRONTATION TACTICS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I THINK MOST OF THE OFFICIALS I TALKED WITH REGARDED THAT AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FRANKNESS OF THE GENERAL CONVERSATION, AND WERE VERY GLAD TO HAVE THE SECRETARY SAY WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE QUESTION.

Q: IN THAT CONTEXT, DID YOU GET A FEELING FROM THE PEOPLE YOU TALKED TO ON THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE HEMISPHERE DIALOGUE, AND WHAT PROSPECTS THERE ARE FOR RESUMPTION OF THAT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEXT, OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE, WHAT IS TO BECOME OF OAS?

A: ON THE OAS, I THINK THE GENERAL ATTITUDE WAS IT HAS GOT TO CONTINUE. SOME COUNTRIES WERE VERY STRONG FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN THE OAS, SOME WERE NOT. WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW DIALOGUE, I THINK THE GENERAL FEELING WAS "LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS THROUGH THE OAS GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSEMBLY MEETING."

I DISCUSSED WITH ALL OF THE COUNTRIES THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPRESSING THE GENERAL DEBATE AND ESSENTIALLY HAVING AN INFORMAL OFF-THE-RECORD MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. AND THERE WAS A GENERAL FEELING THAT THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA, IF THE NATURAL TENDENCY AND TEMPTATION TOWARDS PUBLIC

RHETORIC COULD BE MODERATED IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF ALL THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE PREPARED TO GIVE UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK PUBLICLY, THEN I THINK THE GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT THEY CERTAINLY



OUGHT TO DO THAT; THAT AN INFORMAL AND DIRECT AND PRIVATE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PRESENT TRADITIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION IN TERMS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.

Q: WASN'T THE POSITION OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR STILL THAT THE NEW DIALOGUE OFFICIALLY SHOULD STAY SUSPENDED UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS ON THE OPEC CLAUSE?

A: I DIDN'T ASK THEM THAT QUESTION. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROPOSAL. IT WASN'T SUSPENDED, INCIDENTALLY.

Q: I THINK VENEZUELA'S ATTITUDE IS THAT IT IS SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF THE OPEC CLAUSE.

A: WELL, I THINK "POSTPONED" IS THE RIGHT WORD. THE ARGENTINIANS ARE VERY SENSITIVE ON THIS POINT -- THAT IT WAS A POSTPONMENT, NOT A SUSPENSION. ALL THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT MAY ESCAPE ME. BUT IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS NO PRESENT PROPOSAL RIGHT NOW TO SET A NEW DATE FOR THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING. WE HAVE GOT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GET THROUGH AND SEE WHERE WE GO FROM THERE.

SECONDLY, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT WHAT WE, AND I PARTICULARLY, HAD TO SAY WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION TO THE OPEC PROVISION, I THINK, CHANGED THE MOOD CONSIDERABLY WITH RESPECT TO THAT WHOLE ISSUE.

BUT AS I SAY, THIS IS REALLY A TENTATIVE AND ACADEMIC QUESTION AT THE PRESENT TIME, BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CALENDAR IS ALREADY SO BOOKED UP ON THESE ISSUES.

Q: YOU SAID ALL OF THESE OFFICIALS YOU SPOKE WITH ON THIS TOUR EXPRESSED A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE PANAMA SITUATION. NOW, DOESN'T THIS ADMINISTRATION CONSIDER THAT AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A BILATERAL ISSUE?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK IT WOULD BE IDLE TO PRETEND THIS WAS A MATTER OF INTEREST SOLELY TO PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE FUTURE OF THE CANAL IS OF PROFOUND INTEREST TO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. IN FACT, IF MY NUMBERS ARE CORRECT, I THINK ONLY EIGHT PERCENT OF THE TRAFFIC THROUGH THE CANAL IS EXCLUSIVELY FROM AND TO THE UNITED STATES.

Q: DID YOU GET ANY READING ON THE ELECTION OF THE NEW

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SECRETARY GENERAL? YOU SAID THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT THAT.

A: BASICALLY THERE ARE STILL TWO OFFICIAL CANDIDATES. AS I SAID BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, OUR POSITION AT THE PRESENT TIME IS ONE OF NEUTRALITY ON THE QUESTION.

Q: THANK YOU. (END BRIEFING).

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS PASSED OUT FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE:

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCED TODAY THE APPOINTMENT OF HEWSON E. RAYN, WILLIAM H. LUERS, AND ALBERT FISHLOW AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF STATE IN THE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

MR. RYAN, A CAREER MINISTER FOR INFORMATION IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS, WILL REPLACE WILLIAM G. BOWDLER WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. LUERS, A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO ONCE SERVED AS POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CARACAS, REPLACES HARRY W. SHLAUDEMANN. MR. SHLAUDEMANN HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA. MR. FISHLOW, CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, WILL REPLACE DANIEL SZABO WHO LEFT TO TAKE A POSITION WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

MR. RAYN WAS AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS FROM 1969 TO 1973. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, HE HAS BEEN SERVING AS DIPLOMAT IN RESIDENCE AT THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY WHERE HE HAS BEEN CONDUCTING GRADUATE SEMINARS IN PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

NJ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. MR. RYAN JOINED THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY IN 1951 AND HAS SERVED IN BOGOTA, LA PAZ AND SANTIAGO, CHILE. FROM 1966-1969 HE HELD USIA'S TOP CAREER JOB AS A DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY.

A GRADUATE OF YALE, MR. RYAN ALSO HOLDS A PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID. HE RECEIVED USIA'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN 1964 FOR HIS PERFORMANCE DURING THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS. MR. RYAN WAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF USIA FOR LATIN AMERICA AT THE TIME, A POSITION HE HELD FROM 1962 TO 1965. HE SPEAKS SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE.

MR. RYAN, 52, IS A RESIDENT OF SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS.

HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER HELENE E. LECKO. THEY HAVE

TWO CHILDREN.

MR. LUERS, AN FSO-1, HAS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICAN AND SOVIET AFFAIRS. HIS MOST RECENT POSITION HAS BEEN DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

IN HIS LAST TOUR ABROAD, HE SERVED AS POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN CARACAS FROM 1969 TO 1973. IN MARCH, 1974 HE RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON AT THE PERSONAL INVITATION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO ATTEND HIS INAUGURATION.

MR. LUERS HAS ALSO SERVED IN ITALY, GERMANY AND THE SOVIET  
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UNION. HIS STATE DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED DESK OFFICER FOR GUYANA, SURINAM AND NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF SOVIET UNION AFFAIRS. HE WAS AWARDED THE DEPARTMENT'S SUPERIOR HONOR AWARD IN 1973.

IN ADDITION TO HIS CAREER IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MR. LUERS HAS TAUGHT A GRADUATE COURSE ON THE SOVIET POLITICAL SYSTEM AT THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND A GRADUATE SEMINAR ON SOVIET AFFAIRS AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN 1974. HE HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON THE POLITICS OF SOVIET CULTURE AND MARXISM IN LATIN AMERICA.

MR. LUERS WAS BORN IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS IN 1929. HE RECEIVED A B.A. FROM HAMILTON COLLEGE IN 1951, AND AN M.A. FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN 1957. HE SPEAKS SPANISH, ITALIAN AND RUSSIAN.

MR. LUERS IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER JANE FULLER. THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN.

MR. FISHLOW IS EXPERIENCED IN LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENTAL AND ECONOMICS MATTERS. FROM 1965-69, HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE JOINT BRAZIL/UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PROJECT, FINANCED BY AID, ON BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC PLANNING. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PROJECT, HE WAS IN BRAZIL FROM AUGUST 1967 THROUGH JANUARY 1969. MR. FISHLOW ALSO SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR SOL M. LINOWITZ, WHICH DEVELOPED A REPORT IN OCTOBER 1974 ON "THE AMERICAS IN A CHANGING WORLD."

A 1956 GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
MR. FISHLOW GOT HIS PHD IN ECONOMICS AT HARVARD IN 1963.  
HE JOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA FACULTY IN 1961.

DURING 1973-1974, HE SPENT A YEAR AS A GUGGENHEIM FELLOW  
AT ALL SOULS COLLEGE AT OXFORD.

BORN IN PHILADELPHIA IN NOVEMBER 21, 1935, MR. FISHLOW IS  
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MARRIED TO THE FORMER HARRIET MILLER; THEY HAVE THREE  
CHILDREN. (END STATEMENT) INGERSOLL

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